

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	v
Introduction	v
Planning Issues Considered.....	vii
Alternatives	vii
Environmental Impacts	x
Soils	x
Air Quality	xi
Watersheds and Water Quality	xii
Vegetation.....	xiv
Wetlands	xvi
Wildlife	xvii
Special Status Species	xix
Cultural Resources.....	xxi
Visitor Use and Visitor Experience	xxiii
Park Operations	xxv
Public Health and Safety	xxvi
Socioeconomics	xxvii
CHAPTER 1: Purpose and Need for Action.....	1
Introduction	1
Purpose of the Fire Management Plan.....	4
Need for the Fire Management Plan.....	4
Fire Management Plan Goals	4
Legislative and Policy Constraints and other Considerations used in Developing the Fire Management Plan	5
Issues and Concerns Raised During Scoping	10
Issues Dismissed from Further Consideration.....	13
Selection of Impact Topics	13
CHAPTER 2: Alternatives -Including the Preferred Alternative	16
Overview of Alternatives	17
Discussion of Fire Management Units	19
Actions Common to All Alternatives	29
General Description of Prescribed Fire and Mechanical Fuels Treatments	35
Alternative A (No Action) - Continued Fuel Reduction for Public Safety and Limited Resource Enhancement.....	37
Alternative B - Expanded Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Additional Natural Resource Enhancement	40
Alternative C - Increased Natural Resource Enhancement and Expanded Hazardous Fuel Reduction.....	47
Mitigation Measures	53

Alternatives Considered But Not Analyzed Further in This FEIS	63
The Environmentally Preferred Alternative	64
The Preferred Alternative	65
CHAPTER 3: Affected Environment	74
Introduction	75
Project Setting	75
Overview	75
Regional Context and Surrounding Communities.....	77
Park Management Zoning	77
Natural Resource Zones.....	80
Historic Resource Zones.....	81
Geology and Topography	81
Fire Regime	83
Fire History.....	86
Affected Environment.....	88
Soils	88
Air Quality.....	93
Water Resources	100
Vegetation.....	104
Wetlands	115
Wildlife.....	116
Special Status Species	118
Habitats of Management Concern	152
Cultural Resources.....	152
Visitor Use and Visitor Experience	157
Park Operations	159
Public Health and Safety	163
Socio-Economics	165
CHAPTER 4: Environmental Consequences.....	168
Introduction	169
Definition of Terms	169
Regulations and Methodology by Impact Topic	171
Soils	171
Air Quality.....	174
Water Resources and Water Quality	184
Vegetation.....	185
Wetlands	187
Wildlife.....	189
Special-Status Species	191
Cultural Resources.....	195
Visitor Use and Visitor Experience	199
Park Operations	202
Public Health and Safety	204
Socioeconomics	205
Impact Analysis.....	206
Impacts to Soils	206

Alternative B.....	219
Alternative C.....	224
Impacts to Air Quality.....	228
Alternative A	229
Alternative B.....	235
Alternative C.....	239
Impacts to Water Resources and Water Quality	243
Alternative A	243
Alternative B.....	249
Alternative C.....	252
Impacts to Vegetation.....	254
Types of Impacts	254
Types of Effects From Prescribed Burning	255
Types of Effects from Wildland Fires and Suppression.....	255
Types of Effects From Mechanical Treatment.....	256
Alternative A	267
Alternative B.....	281
Alternative C.....	290
Impacts to Wetlands.....	295
Alternative A	295
Alternative B.....	299
Alternative C.....	301
Impacts to Wildlife.....	302
Types of Impacts	302
Invertebrates, Amphibians, and Reptiles.....	304
Fisheries and Aquatic Species	304
Birds.....	305
Mammals	305
Alternative A	306
Alternative B.....	312
Alternative C.....	315
Impacts on Special-Status Species.....	318
Alternative A	318
Alternative B.....	347
Alternative C.....	359
Impacts to Cultural Resources.....	369
Alternative A	369
Alternative B.....	377
Alternative C.....	379
Impacts to Visitor Use and the Visitor Experience	381
Alternative A	381
Alternative B.....	386
Alternative C.....	388
Impact to Park Operations.....	390
Alternative A	390
Alternative B.....	392

Alternative C.....	394
Impacts to Human Health and Safety.....	396
Alternative A	396
Alternative B.....	399
Alternative C.....	401
Socioeconomic Impacts.....	402
Alternative A	402
Alternative B.....	405
Alternative C.....	408
Mandatory Sections.....	410
Alternative A	410
Alternative B.....	410
Alternative C.....	411
CHAPTER 5: Consultation and Coordination.....	412
Public Involvement and Scoping.....	413
Compliance Status.....	413
List of Preparers	416
List of Consultants	416
Participating Governmental Agencies.....	416
Federal Agencies	416
Federal Advisory Groups.....	417
Elected Officials	417
State Agencies	417
Regional, County, and Municipal Agencies	417
Non-Governmental Organizations, Non-Profit Organizations, etc.	418
Libraries.....	419
Comments Received and NPS Responses to Comments	420
I. Introduction	420
II. Comment Received and Response to Comments	421
Appendix A: Glossary of Terms and Acronyms.....	451
NEPA Terminology.....	452
Acronyms	455
Fire Terms and Definitions	456
Appendix B: List of Classified Structures	461
Appendix C: Other Projects Considered in Cumulative Impacts Analysis	475
Appendix D: Biological Opinion United States Fish and Wildlife Service.....	479
Literature Cited	503
Index.....	533

List of Tables

Table 1. Maximum Number of Acres that would be Treated with Prescribed Fire and Mechanical Treatment in Any One Year Under the Three Alternatives.	18
Table 2. Fire Management Units That Would Be Subject To Treatment Beyond Clearing Around Buildings Of Fire Roads And Trails (Prescribed Fire, Mechanical Treatment Or Both) Under Each Alternative.....	24
Table 3. Federal, State, and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Listed Plant Species in each Fire Management Unit.	25
Table 4. Fire Roads and Trails in Pt. Reyes Receiving Annual or Periodic Maintenance	31
Table 5. Range of FMP Alternatives Compared by Fire Management Goals	65
Table 6. Summary of Preferred Alternative and Alternatives	66
Table 7. Summary of Impacts of Alternatives	68
Table 7A. Erosion Hazard Potential Per FMU	92
Table 8. Temperature and Precipitation Data for Bear Valley- Point Reyes National Seashore, California	96
Table 9. Ambient Air Quality Standards & Bay Area Attainment Status	97
Table 10. Ambient Ozone Standards and Levels at Santa Rosa: 1999-2001.....	99
Table 11. Percent of Project Area in Project Watersheds.....	101
Table 12. Acres Within Each General Vegetation Class Within Each Fire Management Unit. 105	
Table 13. Marsh and Other Wetland Acreage in each FMU Where Management Would Take Place.....	116
Table 14. <i>Sonoma alopecurus</i> Occurrences and Numbers of Plants from 2000-2003	119
Table 15. Federal Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Proposed Plant Species that may occur in Areas Affected by PRNS's Fire Management Plan (per USFWS Letter, May 24, 2001).	119
Table 16. Population Estimates for Sonoma Spineflower on G Ranch 1980-2002 (intermittent)	121
Table 17. Monitoring for Tiburon paintbrush (Nicasio Ridge)	122
Table 18. Occurrences and Estimated Numbers of Marin Dwarf Flax on Nicasio Ridge.....	123
Table 20. Tidestrom's lupine Occurrences and Estimated Numbers, 2000-2002.....	124
Table 21. Plant Species of Concern and California-listed Species that may Occur in Areas Affected by PRNS's Fire Management Plan (per USFWS Letter, May 24, 2001).	126
Table 22. Additional Plant Species of NPS Management Concern that Occur in Areas Affected by PORE's Fire Management Plan.....	127
Table 23. Site History of Northern Spotted Owl Activity Centers within PRNS and the Northern District of GGNRA	129
Table 24. Federal Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Proposed Animal Species that May Occur in Areas Affected by PRNS's Fire Management Plan (per Attachment A in USFWS Letter, May 24, 2001).	132
Table 25. Potential Impacts on Red-legged Frog Aquatic Habitats.....	134
Table 26. Coho Salmon Spawning Survey Data for Overall Lagunitas Creek Watershed.....	139
Table 27. Total Coho Redds in Lagunitas Creek Watershed, 1995-2003 (MMWD & PRNS). 140	
Table 28. Coho Salmon Spawning Survey Data for Lagunitas Creek Mainstem.....	141
Table 29. Coho Salmon Spawning Survey Data for Devil's Gulch	142
Table 30. Coho Salmon Spawning Survey Data for Olema Creek Mainstem.....	143

Table 31. Coho Salmon Spawning Survey Data for the John West Fork.....	144
Table 32. Snowy plover Nesting at PRNS.....	149
Table 33. Animal Species of Concern and California-listed Species That May Occur in Areas Affected by PORE's Fire Management Plan (per USFWS Letter, May 24, 2001).....	150
Table 34. Cultural Landscapes.....	155
Table 35. National Register Status.....	157
Table 36. Federal Wilderness in the Fire Management Units	163
Table 37. Ambient Air Quality Standards & Bay Area Attainment Status	175
Table 38. Vegetation Cover Types Used in Air Quality Emissions Analysis	179
Table 39. Smoke Emission Factors by Fire Type	180
Table 40. Emission Factors for Equipment Use in Fire Management Activities	181
Table 41. Alternative A, Potential Watershed Level Effects.....	211
Table 42. Alternative B: Potential Watershed Level Effects.....	220
Table 43. Alternative C: Potential Watershed Level Effects.....	225
Table 44. Projected Annual Fire Management Emissions Under Alternative A.....	231
Table 45. Determination of Cumulative Effect on Air Quality Alternative A	234
Table 46. Projected Annual Fire Management Emissions under Alternative B	235
Table 47. Determination of Cumulative Effect on Air Quality Alternative B.....	238
Table 48. Projected Annual Fire Management Emissions under Alternative C	239
Table 49. Determination of Cumulative Effect on Air Quality Alternative C.....	242
Table 50. Broom Acreage within Fire Management Units.....	268
Table 51. Eucalyptus Acreage occurring within Fire Management Units.....	288
Table 52. Number of Occurrences and Estimated Population Trends for Listed Plant Species in the Project Area.....	319
Table 53. Potential Impacts on Red-legged Frog Aquatic Habitats from Fire Management Activities	327

List of Figures

Figure 1. Project Area- Point Reyes National Seashore and North District of Golden Gate National Recreation Area.....	2
Figure 2. Regional Context Map.....	3
Figure 3. Fuel Ranking Map Measuring Risk of Wildland Fire	20
Figure 4. Potential Living Unit Loss Measuring the Risk of Wildland Fire.....	21
Figure 5. Resistance of Control Measuring the Risk of Wildland Fire	22
Figure 6. Map of Project Area Showing All Fire Management Units	23
Figure 7. Map of Project Area Showing Alternative A FMUs	38
Figure 8. Map of Project Area Showing Alternative B FMUs	41
Figure 9. Map of Project Area Showing Alternative C FMUs	49
Figure 10. Population Density for San Francisco Bay Area in 1990.....	76
Figure 11. Local Communities	78
Figure 14. Point Reyes National Seashore Soil Map Unites	90
Figure 17. Vegetation in Tomales Point FMU.....	257
Figure 18. Vegetation in the Headlands FMU	258
Figure 19. Vegetation in the Estero FMU.....	259
Figure 20. Vegetation in Inverness Ridge FMU	260
Figure 21. Vegetation in the Limantour Road FMU.....	261
Figure 22. Vegetation in Wilderness North FMU	262
Figure 23. Vegetation in Wilderness South FMU	263
Figure 24. Vegetation in Highway One FMU	264
Figure 25. Vegetation in Bolinas Ridge FMU	265
Figure 26. Vegetation in Palomarin FMU.....	266

